

# PROFESSIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION

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ADOPTION EFFECTIVE

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## Position Statement: Professional-Technical Education

Professional-Technical Education (PTE) provides Idaho's youth and adults with the technical knowledge and skills, needed for employment in high wage, high skill or high demand jobs in current or emerging fields, or to continue their education. The foundation of professional-technical education is the technical training program which is part of a program of study that includes academic and technical courses. This program of study integrates academic and industry standards and includes articulation between high school and college.

The scope of instruction ranges from career awareness and exploration at the middle school/junior high school level to specialized skill development at the comprehensive high school, professional-technical high school and college levels.

A coordinated career guidance curriculum, with parental involvement, is key to providing students with the tools and services to assist them in making educational and career decisions. Counselors help students in self-assessment, knowledge of educational programs and knowledge of current labor market trends. Career guidance is at the forefront as students and parents consider student learning plans on a yearly basis, grades 8-12.

Professional-Technical Education Student Organizations (PTSO) are an integral part of the professional-technical education curriculum. These organizations empower students to develop employability and leadership skills. Students enhance learning through community involvement, teamwork, critical thinking, problem solving and gain an increased awareness of the world of work.

The specific professional-technical programs offered in Idaho include:

- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Business, Management & Marketing
- Engineering and Technology Education
- Family & Consumer Sciences
- Health Professions
- Individualized Occupational Training
- Skilled and Technical Sciences

The Idaho State Curricular Materials Selection Committee recognizes the need to continually evaluate and reassess educational programs. As part of the evaluation process, the Committee reviews and adopts curricular materials for Professional-Technical Education.

Agricultural and Natural Resources – Glenn Orthel, Program Manager  
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Agriculture and Natural Resources programs prepare secondary and postsecondary students for careers in dynamic, global, natural resource-based industries. Rapidly changing technologies create exciting new career opportunities in the agricultural community. Environmental management, food quality assurance, biotechnology, horticulture, turf and landscape management, agricultural research, toxicology, aquaculture, communications, international marketing and many other emerging fields are all linked to the central agricultural core of production, processing and distribution of food and fiber products. Agricultural and Natural Resource programs also build global awareness and develop student leadership for the food, fiber and natural resource industries. Farm Business Management, under the Agriculture program, is a three-year curriculum to assist farm families in developing the management skills necessary to analyze and operate a profitable family enterprise.

Business, Management & Marketing – Dona Orr, Program Manager  
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Business, Management & Marketing programs prepare students for entry into and advancement in business, management and marketing careers. Classroom instruction is combined with workplace experiences to support and enhance the areas of study as they relate to personal and business decision making. Students use accounting procedures to make decisions about planning, organizing and allocating resources. They apply the principles of law in personal and business settings. Students study marketing as it relates to distribution, financing, research and marketing information management, pricing, product/service management, communication and promotion, e-marketing and entrepreneurship. Finally, students develop interpersonal teamwork and leadership skills necessary to function in diverse business settings.

Engineering and Technology Education – Janel Kerr, Program Manager

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Engineering and Technology Education is a dynamic performance-based discipline providing students the opportunities to develop leadership, self-confidence, technical and academic knowledge. Using current technologies and processes, outcomes are achieved through interdisciplinary, action-based activities involving teamwork, problem solving, economic and environmental issues related to the future.

Family & Consumer Sciences – Theresa Golis, Program Manager

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Family and Consumer Sciences programs to prepare students for success in employment and personal life as well as for a variety of careers in education; early childhood professions; food production and management; hospitality and tourism; housing and interiors; apparel design and merchandising; and human services. Leadership is learned and practiced in all elements of Family and Consumer Sciences programs. Students may apply their knowledge and skills to directly enter the workforce or to continue their education at a technical college or a university. Family and Consumer Sciences Education is designed to assist individuals in managing and balancing life in the family, community, and workplace.

Health Professions – Joanne Clovis, Program Manager

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These programs prepare people for careers in health professions. Students at the secondary level are provided the opportunity to explore a wide variety of career options, learn basic health care competencies and receive specific training in health fields offering technical certifications. Idaho's postsecondary programs expand options in a number of areas including nursing, surgical technology, dental assisting, health information technology, medical assisting and physical therapy assisting. A variety of short-term health care training programs are also available at each of Idaho's six postsecondary technical colleges.

Individualized Occupational Training – Joanne Clovis, Program Manager

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Individualized Occupational Training programs offer schools the opportunity to help students consider various aspects of the transition to work, including career exploration, and employment preparation. While engaging in discussions surrounding workplace readiness and career readiness, students put their learning into application by way of securing a work placement. Through this hands-on work-based learning opportunity, students experience a variety of job roles in either paid or unpaid internships guided by collaboration between the school, the employer, parents/guardians, and the student.

Skilled and Technical Sciences (STS) programs mirror the technologies of today's industries by using advanced concepts and applications in an educational environment. These programs use state-of-the-art equipment and typically lead to industry certification. STS education prepares students for constantly changing careers, which require a strong academic base combined with sound technical skills and the ability to transfer those skills in a constantly changing occupational setting.

Students are provided opportunities to master competencies under industry-established conditions, in programs that meet national industry standards. The STS curriculum covers many diverse occupational areas, including: aviation, small engine repair, auto body (collision repair) technology, automotive technology, heavy equipment/diesel, industrial mechanics, architectural drafting, mechanical drafting, residential carpentry/building construction, masonry, home technology integration, cabinetmaking and millwork, electronic technology, precision machining, automated manufacturing, metals fabrication technology, welding technology, broadcast technologies, graphic communications, journalism technology, commercial photography, cosmetology technology, law enforcement/criminal justice, and environmental science technology.